

February 16, 2021

Weekly Regional Talking Points

AltEn Ethanol Plant Release Assessment

- On Saturday, February 13, a Region 7 OSC and START contractor deployed to the AltEn ethanol plant in Mead, Nebraska, after the Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment (NDEE) requested assistance in responding to a release of materials from the ethanol plant storage. The EPA R7 staff member and contractor will assist with assessment of the release and determination of appropriate follow up response activities.
- The release material has reached drainageways from the site and migrated beyond facility property.
- This plant had recently been ordered by NDEE to cease operations while regulatory compliance issues were being evaluated and addressed.
- The potential for involvement of listed hazardous substances is high due to the ethanol feed stock being seed grains treated with various pesticides, herbicides and/or fungicides. Previous sampling of waste by NDEE has identified elevated levels of various seed treatment compounds. The responsible party has been attempting to secure and contain the release.
- This been an ongoing issue and the community around the facility is concerned, and numerous press articles have recently highlighted the situation.
- The state is in the lead on this matter for now but has asked for EPA to be engaged and we may need to get further involved if the facility will not cooperate with the state.

Off-Post Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances sampling at the Fort Riley National Priorities List site, Fort Riley, Kansas.

- Sampling of off-post drinking water at the Fort Riley, Kansas, site has identified one domestic well with Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances exceeding the lifetime health advisory. The U.S. Army is now providing bottled water to this property owner.
- Fort Riley is an active Army facility near Manhattan, Kansas, who's primary mission is to train forces. Historical operations by the Army at Fort Riley have resulted in the release of hazardous substances to soil, surface water, and groundwater. Fort Riley was added to the National Priorities List on October 1, 1990.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Virtual Events -- Donnelly College Discussion

- Region 7 is participating in two virtual events with Donnelly College featuring Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities the Dr. Hanna-Attisha's events at Donnelly College explore environmental science and public health.

- Donnelly College is a Catholic independent college that is federally designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution and a Minority-Serving Institution in Kansas City, KS.
- **February 17:** R7 staff member Regina Klepikow, from the Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division, will participate in a panel discussion on the value and importance of research, especially as it applies to environmental science and public health.
- **March 2:** R7 Water Division Director Jeff Robichaud will speak about the local water situation in Kansas City.

Press Release: EPA Region 7 Announces First Trash Trap Project to Capture and Assess Aquatic Trash in St. Louis

- EPA Region 7's Trash-Free Waters program, along with Wichita State University's Environmental Finance Center and the Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper, are working with local community groups to install and maintain three trash traps in the St. Louis area.
- A trash trap is composed of a floating boom and net that attaches to embankments, canals, or stormwater outfalls and gathers floating debris before it reaches the primary stream, river, lake or ocean.
- This project is the result of a \$35,000 grant to the Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center (WSU EFC) to capture and study the types, quantities and sources of trash at the three trap locations.
- The data collected by the EFC will provide a foundation for learning the characteristics of trash entering St. Louis streams to recommend further litter reduction actions that can be replicated in other parts of the city, state, and throughout communities in Region 7.

Virtual Training Workshop: -- February 16 to 18 – Community Drinking Water Systems Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Training

- On February 16 -18, Region 7 is hosting a virtual workshop for community (drinking) water systems to learn and understand the requirements to complete risk and resilience assessments and update emergency response plans.
- Helping community water systems comply with section 2013 of America's water infrastructure act of 2018
- America's Water Infrastructure Act requires community (drinking) water systems serving more than 3,300 people to develop or update risk and resilience assessments and emergency response plans.
- June 30, 2021 is the deadline for those systems serving 3,301 to 49,999 people.
- All Region 7 systems serving 50,000 people or greater have met the assessment certification deadlines.
- More information can be found at [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-09/documents/ta_primer_18sep19.pdf" \h](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-09/documents/ta_primer_18sep19.pdf)]
- **BACKGROUND:** America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA) amends the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and includes new resilience requirements for drinking water utilities. AWIA applies to a subset of community water systems (CWSs), which are drinking water utilities that consistently serve at least 25 people or 15 service connections year-round. Section 2013 of AWIA requires CWSs **serving populations more than 3,300** to conduct and certify completion of a Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Completion of Phase II of the removal action at the Newton County Mine Tailings Residential Yards site, Newton County, Missouri.

- Region 7 completed phase II of the removal action addressing residential lead contamination in Newton County, Missouri.
- The Newton County Mine Tailings Superfund site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 2003 to address heavy metals contamination from historic lead and zinc mining.
- In December 2019, Region 7 began phase I of a removal action to address residential lead contamination in soils.
- Phase I was completed in the spring of 2020 and phase II was completed in February 2021. A total of 25 properties were addressed during the two phases.
- Additional removal actions are planned in the future to continue to address high priority residential properties until a remedial action can begin.

Public Fact Sheet: SEMD - Viburnum Trend Lead Haul Roads OU 2

- Region 7 will notify the public about a time-critical removal at the Viburnum Trend Lead Haul Roads Superfund Site for residential properties and child high-use areas where: (1) lead concentrations in soils exceeded 1,200 parts per million (ppm) or (2) lead concentrations in soils were less than 1,200 ppm but greater than 400 ppm and a sensitive population (e.g. child under the age of 6) is present.
- EPA is continuing to negotiate with the PRP about plans to clean up the remaining residential properties and child high-use areas with lead concentrations of less than 1,200 ppm in soil (that were without sensitive residents).

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Ex. 5 DP / Ex. 7(A)

- Sampling of residential yards will continue until EPA's investigation is complete.
- EPA will update the local community when additional information becomes available.